

**Water system Inauguration in Santa Elena, Barahona  
and World's AIDS Day Celebration**

Ladies and Gentleman:

Good morning. Today we celebrate World's AIDS Day. It's my pleasure to inaugurate this aqueduct here in Santa Elena.

You know that water is very important to better your lifestyles, and that's why you've built this aqueduct, which will provide your community with potable water. The construction of this aqueduct has brought the community together and together you all digging trenches and burying pipes. Likewise, they organized a water committee and the community was trained on the proper use of their new water system. The community has agreed to pay their water monthly bill, which will guarantee its maintenance.

Likewise, you all know the importance of HIV/AIDS. A world spread disease that is also affecting the Dominican Republic.

I would like to congratulate the Dominican government through INAPA (Instituto Nacional de Aguas Potables y Alcantarillados (National Institute of Potable Water and Sewage)), the American Red Cross, Dominican Red Cross and the entire community for your hard work and dedication.

This event has given the Government of the United States through USAID the chance to support solution on water and sanitation in the aftermath of Hurricane Georges.

Thank you!